

# WORDSWORTH'S POETRY.

Wordsworth has many admirers in this country as well as in England who will be pained to find that he has sown the seeds of Puseyism, with no unsparing hand, in his beautiful verse. Some of the English papers are pointing to passages where the offensive doctrines are taught, and that too with a grossness which is scarcely to be expected in verse so exquisitely tender as his. One writer says:

Of all poets living, I admire and love Wordsworth: and I was the more sorry to find, on reading his delightful "Excursion," that his noble verse is tinged with the errors of the Oxford theology. For the sake of connection, I will copy out a few lines from the part I refer to, and will mark in italics the particular passage. It occurs in page 199. Describing a row of graves of unbaptized infants, he says,—

"Who, with a dutiful and tender hand,  
Lodged in a dear appropriated spot,  
This file of infants; some that never breathed  
The vital air; others, which, though allowed  
That privilege, did yet expire too soon,  
Or with too brief a warning, to admit  
Administration of the holy rite  
That lovingly consigns the babe to the arms  
Of Jesus, and his everlasting care.  
These that, with trembling hope, are laid apart," &c.

Another quotes the following from Wordsworth's sonnet on "Baptism."

"Blest be the church, that, watching o'er the needs  
Of infancy, provides a timely shower,  
Whose virtue changes to a Christian flower  
The sinful product of a bed of weeds?  
Filiest beneath the sacred roof proceeds  
The ministration: while parental love  
Looks on, and grace descendeth from above  
As the high service pledges now, now pleads.  
There, should vain thoughts outspread their wings and fly  
To meet the coming hours of secular mirth,  
The tomb: which hear and answer that brief cry,  
The infant's notice of his second birth,  
Recall the wandering soul to sympathy  
With what man hopes from Heaven, yet fears from earth."